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Poetry: Forgotten Men

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FORGOTTEN MEN

Alney Allbritten Norell

Moss-grown gravestones tilt, lean...
lie fallen, in this old burying-ground
chiseled names, dates erased by wind and storm.
Once saplings, these huge gnarled trees form
quiet shadows across long-untended graves.
The silent Church...a crumbling ruin...
voice gone...yet stands sentinel on guard!

In this proud field rest hardy Pioneers:
dreamers, doers...the brave, the strong...
widows, orphans, babes...the weak, old, lame.
Lives knowing burdens of hard toil, tears...
with but little joy, mixed-in. Goals the same:
leveling a wild place for homes...the future!
Together now, in the cold deeps of earth to rot
enmeshed, caught-up in Time's warp, these bones
mouldering...are near forgot.

The Seasons, in constant flow...come and go
without will or guile...
Spring's budding...Winter's snow.
Pause Traveler! Reflect awhile!